

### Planning Principles for Growth Groups

- 'Failing to plan is Planning to fail!' (Benjamin Franklin)

### Intentionality

**2 Tim 3:**<sup>10</sup> You [Timothy], however, know all about my teaching, my [Paul] way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup> In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

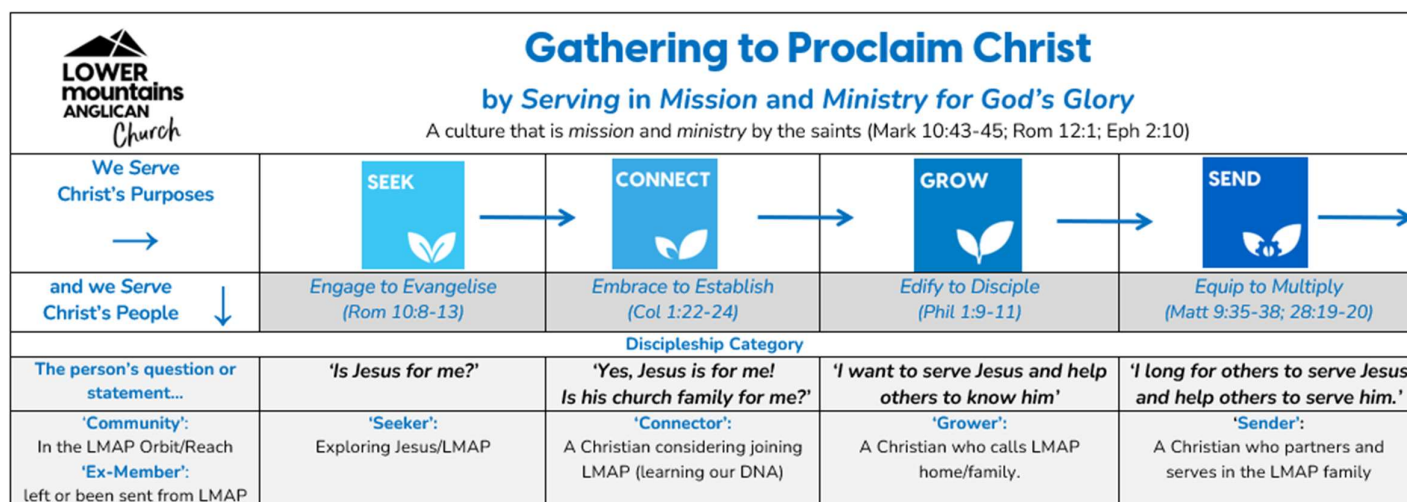
4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (2 Tim 3:10-4:8)

## Leader Training: 4C – Planning Principles for Growth Groups

Consider why we exist as a Church family...

We **gather to proclaim Christ** and do that by *serving* in **Mission** (reaching those we do yet know) and **Ministry** (caring for those we do know) for God's glory.



How we do that will in the first instance *serve Christ's purposes* – that is what he asks of his disciples. Yet in the second instance, and at every point, we *serve Christ's people*.

This is about the way that we live as disciples and be a disciple makers.

As such, here are some \_\_\_\_\_ – which help us to be intentional in what we do.

For the person who is the \_\_\_\_\_ – who might ask the question 'Is Jesus for me?' – we should want to *engage* with them and find ways to *evangelise* them.

For the person who is \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus or his people – who might (effectively) say: 'Yes, Jesus is for me! – is his church family for me?' – we should want to *embrace* to *establish* them in our church family.

For the person who is \_\_\_\_\_ now in faith – who might state: 'I want to serve Jesus and help others to know him like I do!' – we should be doing what we can to *edify* and *disciple* them. And this is where our Growth Groups are so important. At a fundamental level our Growth Groups should be places where the disciple of Christ are grown in faith.

And for the person who is equipped to go out – be \_\_\_\_\_ – that is our leaders (you). I hope that you are (effectively) thinking 'I long for others to also serve Jesus and help others in turn serve Jesus' – and it is for that reason that we do what we do to *equip*, and train so that we are increasingly able to *multiply* disciples of Christ.

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- **Think about some of the different ministries of our church. Each of these endeavours are important. At each of our locations – what is an example of a ministry in each category (Seek, Connect, Grow, Send).**

**Growth Groups** – the most key part of our ‘Grow’ Ministries.

Our Growth Groups exist as a smaller expression of what we do as a whole Church Family - where the Bible is central - and where the group explores, discusses, understands and applies God’s Word – in order to prayerfully grow in Christian maturity, service and mission. Our Growth Groups are the best place to offer deep and intentional pastoral care.

- **Think about your Growth Group – rate your group (you will not be asked to share your rating). How closely does this definition suit what your groups does?**

- 1 - **Absolutely** (this is exactly what we are on about)
- 2 – **Pretty well** (most times we get together the Bible, prayer, pastoral care are our concern)
- 3 – **Average** (we have good intentions but struggle to stay on track)
- 4 – **Not so intentional** (we are a bit hit and miss – perhaps more miss!)
- 5 – **Not at all** (we exist for other reasons)

### Planning Principles

- When I say ‘Planning Principles’ I mean the fundamental principles that sit behind what you do to plan out your Growth Group calendar.
- And we are doing this seminar with term 3 (so the second half of the year to come) – because the middle of the year is a good time to do a quick adjustment for the rest of the Year.

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- There are different kinds of planning

From big picture of what you will do as a group for the year, down to the micro picture of what you will do on each week that you meet...

### **Strategic Planning**

Long-term

Year as a whole

General Categories

Roles and Expectations

### **Tactical Planning**

Medium-term

Term at a time

Intentional Direction

Delegation and Ownership

### **Operation Planning**

Short-term

Week at a glance

Specific Details

Preparation and Execution

- Each requires different kinds of attention and will achieve different purposes
- \_\_\_\_\_ (The Long-term planning) for your Year should be done upfront – may take time (and sound like hard work), but it is time well spent.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (medium Term-planning, like for the term at a go) makes sure that those who will be leading/arranging have the direction that they need in order to succeed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (short-term, what you will do each week) ensures that you are prepared and ready to lead the group well.

➤ **What are some advantages of being planned upfront?**

➤ **What are some of the challenges or limitation that you find in trying to plan for your group?**

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### Partnership Principles

Who it is that you (under God) involve in the process of planning. Who are your partners?

Look in three directions (you don't need to do this alone)

1. **Your** \_\_\_\_\_ – whilst it is true that you are the leader, and hence doing the planning to serve those who are in the group. There is no harm in involving them in the process. Not only does this create ownership, but it helps to ensure that all involved in the group understand what you are on about.

2. **Your** \_\_\_\_\_ – the best team is one which works and plans together – for you help one another stay on the same page.

A trap that co-leaders often fall into is to plan by dividing! 'You do this week and I will do that week' – the result is that you have one leader at any one time (for the other week they check-out when they are not 'on').

That does not mean preparing everything together, but it should mean doing the *Strategic Planning* together .....

Then doing the *Tactical Planning* together ...

Which means when you get to each week – your *Operational Planning* will be much easier. But more importantly ...

A bonus, if you have been intentional in your different kinds of planning, you might also have more opportunity to pray.

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3. Your \_\_\_\_\_ – theologically your ‘word ministers’ are your support team – allow them to support you.

*<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Eph 4:11-13)*

- **What are these word ministers supposed to do?**
  
- **And why?**
  
- **And for how long should this activity happen?**

*Architects*

*Engineers*

*Workers*

- **What resources/inputs do you need to help your Big Picture planning.?**

### Programming Principles

the Bible central, be *prayerful*, and offer good *pastoral care*.

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### Bible:

- Each week aim to - explore, discuss, understand and apply.
- In following the Preaching plan you will find that across the year you will address:
  - A Gospel      OT      NT      Doctrine/Topic      Seasonal  
(evangelistic)
  - you will also find that you are serving your members by helping them to either hear the Bible Talk better (if you are doing studies preceding the Bible Talk) or reinforce what they have heard in the Bible Talk (if you are doing the study afterwards). Both can be helpful.
  - Plan in a mix of pre-prepared studies vs own studies
  - A trap we can fall into is too overestimated the value of topical studies and underestimated the value of exegetical studies.

Yet as some groups often do – they will follow what they want to look at in the Bible (which is fine). It is still helpful to have a good balance of Gospel/OT/NT/Doctrine across the year.

- Intro Bible study for each new series.
- Also notice different Authors/genres – Appendix A
- Recognise that different groups will be at different stages
- Consider an External Church Events (i.e. CMS Summer School, Men Meeting the Challenge, Single Minded Conference, Equip Women etc)
- Avoid: reading Christian Books together (better for a book club) or watching Videos – should not be the main diet.

➤ **Comment/suggestion about planning tips to keep the Bible central?**

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### Prayer:

- Be intentional in planning what you pray...
  - Schedule in LMAP Missionary Partner Prayer Nights and/or Seek and Send
  - Have a Prayer coordinator
- **Comment/suggestion about planning tips to promote an intentional Growth Groups prayer focus?**

### Pastoral Care

- Pastoral Care is so important in Growth Groups. Paul reminds the church in Thessalonica about the important of 'sharing not only the gospel of God but our lives as well' (1 Thess 2:8). Key here is that their lives (joys and burdens) are shared because the gospel is proclaimed among them.
- In our Pastoral Care, we must make sure that we are helping people spiritually as well as physically and emotionally.
- Caution – is there is always more Pastoral Care that can be given. Remember we are helping our group cast our burdens on Jesus, not on one another!
- Consider planning into your Growth Group program
  - Internal Church Events
  - Plan a Weekend Away (but don't take people away from church)
  - Find a Mission activity that you can do together
  - A way to serve you wider church family as a group (e.g. Welcoming, Morning Tea/Dinner).
  - Build in Flexi nights



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- Consider how you do socials to invite in other members of church who may not be in a Growth Group

- Holidays

➤ **Comment/suggestion about other creative Pastoral Care endeavours.**

### How can this be planned?

Appendix 2 gives you an example of a sample Bible Study Year plan

### Final Reflection

In any training lots of ideas can be raised – some old, some new, some just a good reminder. We won't take everything, but we should take something.

➤ **What is one helpful thing that you will take away and implement from this session today?**

Appendix 1 – The Bible Genres

	Section	Books of the Bible	Information about the 'section'
OLD TESTAMENT – the Old Covenant	The Law (The Pentateuch)	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	God gave foundational teaching which sets the context for the rest of the Bible – creation, sin, promise, exodus, salvation, law. God's people called to live under his rule and moving towards a new land.
	The Former Prophets	Joshua Judges 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings	These 'Former' Prophets detail the period when Israel heard God's word by appointed judges and then kings. The Former Prophets describes God's history with Israel as they move into the promised land and ultimately fail to live under God's rule. The result is division as the <i>Northern Kingdom</i> (Israel) is overthrown by the Assyrians (in 722 <sub>BC</sub> ) and the <i>Southern Kingdom</i> (Judah) by the Babylonians (in 597 <sub>BC</sub> ). God's people scattered and removed from God's land as a consequence of not living under his rule.
	The Latter Prophets	Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel  Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	Prophets speak the words of God for the benefit of God's people (Israel). The 'Latter' Prophets deal with the period of Israel's history immediately before, during or after the conquests of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. The prophets make clear that God's gracious purposes have not failed or been abandoned and that he remains faithful to his people despite their unfaithfulness. God's people are in exile from God's land but still called to acknowledge God's rule.  Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel are often called the 'Major Prophets'. Hosea through to Malachi are often called the 'Minor Prophets'.
	Wisdom	Job Proverbs Song of Solomon (Songs) Ecclesiastes	Wisdom Literature deals with problems of universal and ageless significance. They focus on a wide variety of issues including suffering, death, friendship, love, marriage, loyalty and wisdom. Of all the sections of the Old Testament – this part is least tied to the specific culture or history of Israel.
	Psalms	Psalms	The Psalms contain a whole range of responses to God in prayer and praise, poetry and song, dating from many different periods of the history of Israel.
	The Writings	Ruth Lamentations Esther Daniel Ezra Nehemiah 1 & 2 Chronicles	The Writings are a selection of texts which cover the period of the Southern Kingdom exile and beyond. For example, 1 & 2 Chronicles retrace the history of Israel from King David to the fulfillment of the promise that the Lord will restore Israel. Daniel, using apocalyptic imagery, reveals God's plans for Israel after the exile. Ezra and Nehemiah portray something of the situation of a relatively small number of Israelites who were restored to the land and sought to rebuild Jerusalem.
NEW TESTAMENT – the New Covenant	The Gospels	Matthew Mark Luke John	The Gospels show us Jesus – the one who is Son of David, Son of God, Saviour and Lord of Israel and all the nations. The Gospels detail Jesus' life, death and resurrection and show how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament in every way. In Jesus, God's people are saved into an eternal land and live under God's gracious rule.

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	Acts of the Apostles	Acts	Acts is a companion volume to Luke's Gospel and shows how the message of Christ was preached and taught beyond the borders of Israel to all the other nations. Acts forms a helpful bridge to the letters which follow - it shows how Christianity spread and what it meant for all people to be followers of Jesus.
	The Letters (the Epistles)	<p>Romans 1 &amp; 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians 1 &amp; 2 Timothy Titus Philemon</p> <p>Hebrews James 1 &amp; 2 Peter 1, 2 &amp; 3 John Jude</p>	<p>The letters explain the significance of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension for all people – especially those who believe. They show how the promises of the Old Testament have been or are being fulfilled in Jesus – but point to more still to come when Jesus returns. The letters deal theologically and practically with problems faced by the early churches.</p> <p>Of the letters, thirteen are written by the Apostle Paul.</p>
	Revelation	Revelation	<p>The Revelation of John brings the New Testament (and the whole Bible) to a close with a focus on the glorified Jesus. Using visions and apocalyptic imagery, it reveals the implications of Jesus death, resurrection and ascension and points to the day of Jesus' final return.</p> <p>God's people will live in God's eternal place and enjoy his eternal and perfect rule.</p>
	<b>Section</b>	<b>Books of the Bible</b>	<b>Information about the 'section'.</b>

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### Appendix 2: Sample Bible Study Year Plan

Sunday	Events	Spm Church Events/Notes	Bible Passage	Sermon Title	Preacher	Ministry Profile	Bible Study Group Suggestion	Notes	Genre
4-Feb	Kick Off Sunday	Kick-off Sunday, CFT 6th,7th	Matthew 28:1-20	Vision Sunday 1 (Making Disciples)	Des Smith	Welcome Arthur Ang and family	Church Family Together	Church Event	Apologetic
11-Feb	Comm. SGL	Church Family Together 14th	Acts 21:1-36	Arresting Times	Ken Noakes	Small Groups (inc. Fusion, DIG, TYW, TIBS)	Church Family Together	Church Event	Apologetic
18-Feb		Focus on Dave and Tab Brox	Acts 21:37-22:29	Citizenship Concerns	Ken Noakes	Evangelical Students/Brox	Kick-off SG	Intro Study	Kick-off
25-Feb			Acts 22:30-23:35	The Death Plot	Ken Noakes	TIBS	Acts 2:14-41 Speech	Write my Own	NT - Topic
4-Mar			Acts 24:1-25:12	What to Believe?	Arthur Ang	Equip Saturday	Acts 7:1-53 Speech	Write my Own	NT - Topic
11-Mar	Adelaide Cup (12)	Adelaide Cup Day (12th)/Prayer Night (14th)	Acts 25:13-26:32	Do you Believe?	Simon Marshman	Easter services	Prayer & Praise Night	Church Event	Internal
18-Mar		Equip Saturday (24th)	Acts 27:1-28:12	Confidence in the Storm	Simon Marshman	Easter services	Acts 20:18-37 Speech	Write my Own	NT - Topic
25-Mar			Acts 28:13-31	They will Listen!	Simon Marshman	City Light	Acts 22:-1-26-32 Speeches	Write my Own	NT - Topic
30-Mar	Good Friday	Good Friday	Mark 15	April Fool?	Des Smith		n/a		
1-Apr	Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	April Fool!	Paul Harrington		All you need to Know #1 (Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
8-Apr				Doctrine of Revelation 1	Geoff Lin	Parent Works (Patricia Weerakoon 5 May)	All you need to Know #2 (Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
15-Apr				Doctrine of Revelation 2	Geoff Lin	Marriage Works (29-30 June)	All you need to Know #3(Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
22-Apr	ANZAC (25)	ANZAC (25th), Baptism of Samuel Abbott		Doctrine of Revelation 3	Geoff Lin	AMC (12 May) + GC (26 May)	All you need to Know #4 (Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
29-Apr				The nations at our doorstep'	Boon-Yong Sim	Update on Mandarin Gathering	All you need to Know #5 (Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
6-May		AMC (12th)		Vision Sunday 2 (Maturing Disciples)	Des Smith	Small Groups (+ Fusion, DIG, TYW, TIBS, TS)	All you need to Know #6 (Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
13-May	Mothers' Day	Mothers' Day	Evangelistic		David Cook	Jesus Works	Dialogue Dinner (Invite a friend)	Outreach Night	Evangelistic
20-May		Grace Conference (26th)		Guidance 1 God's plan for all things (and for you)	Geoff Lin	Evangelical Students	Genesis 1-2	Write my Own	OT - Narrative
27-May		CMS Dinner (29th/30th)		Guidance 2 God's word to you	Geoff Lin	Living Hope	CMS Dinner	Mission Focus	External
3-Jun				Guidance 3 God's work in you	Geoff Lin	'S Away' Camp	Genesis 3	Write my Own	OT - Narrative
10-Jun	Queen's Birthday (11)	Queen's Birthday (11th)/Prayer Night (12th)		Guidance 4	Simon Marshman	City Bible Forum	Prayer & Praise Night	Church Event	Internal
17-Jun				Guidance 5	Ken Noakes	TCLT Finance Update	Genesis 4-5	Write my Own	OT - Narrative
24-Jun	SWA	5 Week End Away	Song of Songs	Song of Songs 1	Des Smith	Re-commissioning service for Dave & Tab (CMS)	5 Weekend Away	Church Event	Internal
1-Jul			Song of Songs	Song of Songs 2	Des Smith		Garden of Love #1 (Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	OT - Wisdom
8-Jul			Song of Songs	Song of Songs 3	Des Smith		Garden of Love #2 (Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	OT - Wisdom
15-Jul			Song of Songs	Song of Songs 4	Des Smith	TIBS	Garden of Love #3 (Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	OT - Wisdom
22-Jul			Song of Songs	Song of Songs 5	Des Smith	Marriage Works (6-8 Sept)	Garden of Love #4 (Matthais Media)	Pre-Written	OT - Wisdom
29-Jul				Vision Sunday 3 (Multiplying Disciples)	Des Smith	Vision 3: Multiplying Disciples	Genesis 6-9	Write my Own	OT - Narrative
5-Aug			Philippians 1:1-11		Bernie Leo	Small Groups (+ Fusion, DIG, TYW, TIBS, TS)	Philippians: Shining with joy#1 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
12-Aug		Spiritual Health Check	Philippians 1:12-30		Arthur Ang	Evangelical Students	Philippians: Shining with joy#2 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
19-Aug		Prayer & Praise Night (22nd)	Philippians 2:1-11	Like-Minded Humility	Ken Noakes	CV Conference	Prayer & Praise Night	Church Event	NT - Epistle
26-Aug			Philippians 2:12-30	Shine like Stars	Ken Noakes	School of Ministry	Philippians: Shining with joy#3 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
2-Sep	Fathers' Day	Fathers' Day	Philippians 3:1-11	Reasons for Confidence	Ken Noakes		Philippians: Shining with joy#4 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
9-Sep			Philippians 3:12-4:1	Running with the Prize	Ken Noakes	Scripture Union	Philippians: Shining with joy#5 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
16-Sep		CBF Life & Work Conf (21st)	Philippians 4:2-8	Standing Firm - practically	Ken Noakes	Bush Church Aid	Philippians: Shining with joy#6 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
23-Sep			Philippians 4:9-23	Secret of being Content	Paul Harrington	Bible College of South Australia	Philippians: Shining with joy#7 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	NT - Epistle
30-Sep				Crazy Busy 1	Simon Marshman		Genesis 11	Work with Members to write own studies	OT - Narrative
7-Oct				Crazy Busy 2	Simon Marshman	Small Groups (+ Fusion, DIG, TYW, TIBS, TS)	Genesis 12	Work with Members to write own studies	OT - Narrative
14-Oct				Crazy Busy 3	Simon Marshman	Evangelical Students	Prayer Night for Small Group	Focus - Up/In/Out	Internal
21-Oct				Vision Sunday 4 (What's Next?)	Des Smith	Vision 4: What's Next? Bible Society	Flex Night	Catch-up	
28-Oct			Judges 1:1-3:6		Arthur Ang	Evangelical Students	Judges: The flawed and the flawless #1 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	OT - Prophet
4-Nov			Judges 3:7-31		Des Smith		Judges: The flawed and the flawless #2 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	OT - Prophet
11-Nov			Judges 4-5		Des Smith	Christmas at Trinity	Judges: The flawed and the flawless #3 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	OT - Prophet
18-Nov			Judges 6:1-8:28		Des Smith	Carols + Christmas Steps	Judges: The flawed and the flawless #4(Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	OT - Prophet
25-Nov			Judges 8:29-9:57		Des Smith	Giving to the Vision in 2018	Judges: The flawed and the flawless #5 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	OT - Prophet
2-Dec			Judges 10-12		Bernie Leo		Judges: The flawed and the flawless #6 (Good Book Company)	Pre-Written	OT - Prophet
9-Dec	Carols, Steps	Carols, Christmas Steps (15th)	Carols		Chris Jolliffe	Christmas Eve and Day services	Dialogue Dinner (Invite a friend)	Outreach Night	Evangelistic
16-Dec			Judges 13-16		Paul Harrington	Farewells (if necessary)	End of Year Celebration	Dinner/Prayer/Praise	Close
23-Dec			Judges 17-21		Simon Marshman		n/a	On break	
24-Dec	Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve			Chris Jolliffe		n/a	On break	
25-Dec	Christmas Day	Christmas Day			Paul Harrington		n/a	On break	
30-Dec			Summer Series		Arthur Ang		n/a	On break	